



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

HABITS OF THE CARPENTER BEES.—I send specimens in alcohol of the pupa of *Xylocopa virginica*, the Carpenter Bee, with the pupæ of *Anthrax sinuosa*. The latter fly I take to be a parasite of the Carpenter Bee. I found them occupying alternate cells or divisions in the mines of the *Xylocopa*. *Ceratina dupla*, a little green bee, allied to the Carpenter Bee, is now (May 18) busily boring and laying its eggs in almost every variety of pithy stems, such as the Elder and Syringa.—JAMES ANGUS, *West Farms, N. Y.*

PARASITES OF THE HUMBLE BEE.—I have lately obtained four specimens of a moth, *Helia Americanis*, from a *Bombus* nest kept since last fall in a flower-pot, covered with a glass.—*lb.*

GEOLOGY.

ON THE ABSENCE OF THE NORTHERN DRIFT FORMATION FROM THE WESTERN COAST OF NORTH AMERICA, AND FROM THE INTERIOR OF THE CONTINENT.—Prof. Whitney made some remarks on the absence of the Northern Drift formation from the western coast of North America, and from the interior of the continent, throughout the region to the south-west of the Missouri River.

The term "Northern Drift" is understood to include the masses of unstratified detrital materials and boulders which have been transported and distributed by some general cause, independent in a great degree of the present conformation of the surface and of the direction of the existing river courses. The investigations of geologists have shown that the surface of Canada, New England, and the States north of the Ohio and north of the parallel of thirty-nine degrees, as far west as the Mississippi, and even for some distance beyond it in that direction, are covered by detrital materials which have been carried from the north towards the south, and often for a great distance and in immense masses.

The explorations of the Geological Survey of California have demonstrated, however, that there is no true Northern Drift within the limits of this State. Our detrital materials, which often form deposits of great extent and thickness, are invariably found to have been dependent for their origin and present position on causes similar to those now in action, and to have been deposited on the flanks and at the bases of the nearest mountain ranges by currents of water rushing down their slopes. While we have abundant evidence of the former existence of extensive glaciers in the Sierra Nevada, there is no reason to suppose that this ice was, to any extent, an effective agent in the transportation of the superficial detritus now resting on the flanks of the mountains. The glaciers were confined to the most elevated por-

tions of the mountains, and although the moraines which they have left as evidence of their former extension are often large and conspicuous, they are insignificant in comparison with the detrital masses formed by aqueous erosion. There is nothing anywhere in California which indicates a general glacial epoch during which ice covered the whole country and moved bodies of detritus over the surface, independently of its present configuration, as is seen throughout the North-eastern States.

The same condition of things prevails in Nevada and through Oregon, as far as explored by the members of the Survey. The detritus seems always to be accumulated at the base of the mountains—gravel, boulders, and sand lying below and not far distant from the bed of rock of which these materials once formed a part, and from which they appear to have been detached by weathering and aqueous erosion.

From the observations of Messrs. Ashburner and Dall, it would appear that no evidences of Northern Drift have yet been detected on this coast, even as far north as British Columbia or Russian America. Neither of these gentlemen have observed any indication of a transportation of drift materials from the north towards the south, or of any condition of things similar to that which must have existed in the Eastern States during the diluvial epoch.—*Proceedings of the California Academy of Natural Sciences.* 1866. Vol 3, part iii.

MICROSCOPY.

TEST OBJECTS FOR THE MICROSCOPE.—To such wonderful perfection has this process been carried, that M. Nobert, of Griefswald, in Prussia, has engraved lines upon glass so close together, that upwards of eighty thousand would go in the space of an English inch. Several series of these lines were engraved upon one slip of glass. By these the defining power of any object-glass could be ascertained. As test objects, they are equal to, and even rival, many natural objects which have hitherto been employed for this purpose. The delicate lines on some of the diatomaceæ are separated from each other by the 1-50,000th of an inch, while the finest lines engraved by M. Nobert are not more than the 1-100,000th of an inch apart.

The Podura scale is a most excellent "test object." According to Prof. J. W. Bailey, the diatoms *Grammatophora subtilissima* and *Hyalodiscus subtilis* are the most delicate tests.—BEALE.

DIATOMS.—These beautiful objects for the microscope are minute silicious plants, which from their ability to move about independently in the water, and from being supposed to have stomachs, were for a long while thought to be animals, and placed among the Infusoria.